Rome in Georgia Dec 29. 1823

I have just received Maria's letter which gives me great comfort for I had suffered a great deal pain about her Another letter is comforting as it is beautiful - I have read it over many times and cannot but be happy at the conclusion that she has escaped such a cantering outfish Husband - I have just written my 2nd letter to Miss McPeck - but something happened since than my 1st I had received such a missive - wishing me weak - methodistical and vanity quite from him - in excuse of his spiteful doings - that my anger was allayed - I dont know what I more he can say or do unto him - Therefore that cause be has assigned for his conduct - "that my sister Maria is a deserter Religion to him" a miserable minded Elf - but I have told him "that we are glad to forsake of the mire from the same motive of Religion - that we and all of us are shocked at his treatment more so to his poor Father - "that of his treatment of his parents forms any part of his creed - he will some day be rocked from a miserable dream - I have said that of his heart is as vile towards Maria as ever and prede to him to that day he will stand write to his Father either upon his bended knees. Maria receives and write I am a letter in his hands I will take care that the Pick of all the Devil - with all half a Pint of Rum Religion in the mean time for a substitute - this bushel headed stripling shall have Peckers - let him go and run his head into a hornets Nest - just Magnet to him to destroy his vanity - with what a sweet Revenge he will be in another world - but if he depends on his Pecks for kingdom come - he will find about an Ounce of the right stuff

But my dear Sarah - about myself - you will want to know some news
first and best - my health continues to improve - yet I am not free
from these swimmings in my head - I reckon this arises from the climate
which more or less affects every one - that I have unfortunately had
my week - this Winter has been a horrible one - perhaps as it is now
breaking off - I shall get rid of all, [illegible] apprehensions about
any further attacks. — I shall very soon compleat my large
Picture of Alexander - which has occupied me a great length
of time - but the large size of it - and the desire I have
had to make it a fine work are the reasons it has taken me
so long - it will repay me every way I have reason to hope - the
rare Nobleman is in Italy just - he waits to see it compleated
- I have fixed 200 Guineas as the price. — He has cost me much
money for Models &c - about 3£ a day - whose wages —
my Pedestals are done - and I hope you will shortly have it England
by July - but not for the Exhibition. — I have been very
singularly respected lately - in burying the Ashes of W Shelley who was
the author of Queen Mandy - I have just designed a Composition
for his Tomb at the request of Lord Byron and his Friends. — His
Lordship sent a very polite letter - and requests that I will do his Portrait
I have received an Invitation from him and Mr Hunt & Brown to visit
Florence with them. — and as I propose passing a Summer there it
will do. — I have just received my Vases - many thanks to you - but the
thing most worthy I don't find — the little sketches in Water Colours of
Pompeii - it is probably in my Table among my letters - you can send it me in a
Letter - for I do not forget it — I am very much pleased with the contents
of the Cases - but the Vases are much injured — now I must say unlucky
for them - for they are so fine —

[illegible]

Many Thanks for the Music — I see you have not forgotten me — I must [illegible] with the "Monster of the Deep" and words and you [illegible] in return — that is nothing in the matter, here in the Musick way — except that we have little sometimes among ourselves — I have written another duett — which sometime I will send you — when I see that you care for my "Rum Stuff" — but I confess it is very bad — tell me what was thought of "Sweet is the breath of Morn" — you dont forget ——

I am on high terms with the British Consul here — who I am anxious to [illegible] — he has requested me to ask you to look for a [illegible] copy of Haydn's 6 Grand Quartetts — a like [illegible] in square Piano-Forte-sound hand — of the last Price [illegible] — I believe 20 or 25 £. — Lady Westmoreland [illegible] me to procure for a Grand Piano — of the last make — Not very good — You have never told me whether you had seen me for Dr Clark — which I mentioned last Summer — something like some description as that for the Consul — Mrs Clark said — a "soft-pliable" tone — will pray take me for Heaven sake — that I may save my Bacon — I'll take my Davy but you will forget them — or mind — as it will probably save [illegible] — I hope that you dont [illegible] — Dont let [illegible] — Dont let [illegible] — long I beg to have your title — My Son is to start the Week — I shall be finished upon Saturday — [illegible] — I suppose you have heard from Hadway Cove and that my Letter [illegible] — the Consul of the Rock — and that they are [illegible]

a Cardinal to Rome — I confess this with great
great Credit — I have made 12 Reading Hymns — highly pleased
those dilettanti my Father would be to see the 1st and the last
— what a progress I have made — I don't allow any one to get
before me in my Drawing — by Comparisons from the Gospel
I have some Thoughts of engraving in Outlines what I am
[illegible] in Rome and Nothing there is beyond what I have in
my own my pocket Board — and many have offered to take
Copies that they may Show how to Augustus & the King
but I do for better Friends I wish like to have the Title for
I would send him a Sketch of the Head of the Letter I had
Drawn for Mr Hayley and for Lady Hesketh with my
Love Look Ladies for my Letter — why have none you to the
Book my Love affairs there was a report that I was married in Rome?

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